

DHS/DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

REHABILITATION SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Your state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency offers important programs that can be of service to students with disabilities who may be leaving high school without adequate preparation for the job market, or who are out of high school and finding it difficult to find and/or keep a job without additional training. Although considered an adult service agency, VR joins with Local Education Agencies (LEA) in a grant agreement to develop a school-to-work program addressing the special needs of students with disabilities. Their involvement may range from getting to know the student in order to provide transition services at a later date, or they can provide services while she/he is still in school.

HOW THE VR SYSTEM WORKS

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will first work with the student to assess his/her eligibility for VR services. To be eligible, the student must have a physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment, and be able to benefit in terms of an employment outcome from VR services. Also the student must require services to prepare for, enter into, or retain employment that meets their ability level.

Once she/he is determined eligible to receive services from Vocational Rehabilitation, a counselor will be assigned to work with the student, and together they will develop and coordinate the types of assistance he/she will need for employment, including the development of an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE).

WHAT IS THE IPE?

The IPE is a written agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and the client. It is designed by the client and his/her VR case manager to achieve the individual's employment goal, and must be consistent with his/her interests, unique strengths, priorities, abilities, and capabilities.

SERVICES

- Assessment to determine the extent of the student's disability
- Vocational evaluation and counseling to explore the student's interests, potential, and limitations
- Work adjusting training to help the student understand his/her vocational needs and abilities and the kind of employment she/he may expect to handle successfully
- Auxiliary aids and services such as interpreters, note-takers, transcription services, TTY's Braille materials and large print materials, when needed by the student to communicate with his/her counselor.

HOW TO APPLY FOR SERVICES

Individuals still in school, their parents, or school personnel can talk to a counselor about involving Vocational Rehabilitation in their transition planning.